

TO: Chief, FBIS
FROM: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
SUBJECT: The Current Death Program

16 November 1948

25X1 1. To provide FBIS with information on Okinawan death and burial regulations [redacted] Supervisor Current Death Program, [redacted] was interviewed at Tengan on 3 November 1948 and again interviewed with an Army mortician on 15 November 1948.

2. Non-indigenous deceased persons (equivalent to those subject to military control) within the Ryukyu Command are processed in accordance with T.B. 10-285, 23 July 1947. A mimeographed change to this bulletin is concerned with overseas deaths. No extra copies of these publications are available locally.

3. No burials of non-indigenous persons are allowed within the Command. All bodies are embalmed, casketed and shipped to the deceased one's country of residence without charge for Army or Department of Army civilians. So far these shipments have included only the continental U.S., Hawaii and the Philippines.

25X1 4. For non-War Department personnel, including A & J personnel, foreign nationals merchant seamen and, according to [redacted] this will include FBIS personnel, this is done on a reimbursable basis at an approximate cost of \$26 for embalming and \$140 for a casket. Transportation from Okinawa to port of destination has been, so far, on a courtesy, non-cost basis. However, this may not continue and will not hold for transportation to countries other than indicated above.

25X1 5. The question of cremation has never been presented. It is the opinion of both [redacted] and the mortician that if there were a suitable crematory on Okinawa, the Commanding General might allow cremation, if assured that it was the wish of the deceased. The question is somewhat academic, as far as I have been able to find out, as cremation is infrequently practiced on Okinawa and there are no crematories as such.

6. The question of cremation is based not so much in regard for the religious beliefs of some of our prospective monitors, as it is on the cost and difficulties of transportation of a corpse from Okinawa, to, say, Singapore, or Bombay. The body can't remain here, that is certain. Perhaps a good suggestion would be: ship to Manila or Shanghai, cremate and air freight on.

7. Unless the answers to the following questions are, or will be, available to this office, it is suggested that it would be proper to consider them in advance of actual need.

8. Questions are:

(a) Will FBIS pay and claim reimbursement from individuals (or estates) for amounts advanced for casketing and embalming for (1) U.S. citizens, (2) foreign nationals? Will the individual (or estate) concerned be expected to settle accounts directly with the Army, or will FBIS pay?

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(b) Will FBIS pay transportation charges for (1) U.S. citizens, (2) foreign nationals; a in full, b, partially, or c. not at all?

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/s/

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